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Week Ending October 19, 2003

Farmers across Tennessee made excellent progress last week harvesting their corn, cotton, and soybean crops, despite several cold fronts which ushered in cooler air and wet conditions. Overall, there were a total of 5 days considered suitable for field work last week. Soybean growers took advantage of the mostly dry weather to harvest an additional 12 percent of the acreage. Corn harvested for grain was slowed due to high moisture content in the remaining fields. Cotton harvest, at 32 percent, continued to lag behind last year and the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly good condition with defoliation on pace with the year earlier. Burley growers made excellent progress stripping, as progress was ahead of last year and normal. Other agricultural activities taking place last week were seeding winter wheat and harvesting late hay. Temperatures averaged within a degree of normal for much of the State, while rainfall was above normal in the West and Middle and below normal in the East. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 12 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus, while subsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 13 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through October 19, 2003					CONDITION: On October 17, 2003					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2002	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
	Percent					Percent				
Corn - Harvest Grain	95	93	97	98	Cotton	0	3	15	61	21
Cotton - Bolls Opening	95	89	100	100	Pastures	0	4	21	61	14
Cotton - Defoliated	89	80	89	96						
Cotton - Harvested	32	24	39	68						
Soybeans - Dropping Leaves	88	73	95	94						
Soybeans - Harvested	32	20	34	41						
Winter Wheat - Seeded	47	15	25	29						
Tobacco - Burley Stripped	34	21	26	30						

CORN: Corn harvested for grain neared completion, but was slowed as farmers wait for the late planted crop to dry down. As of Sunday, only 5 percent of the acreage remained unharvested with progress lagging slightly behind last year and the 5-year average.

COTTON: Growers made good progress last week with both defoliation and harvest of the State's cotton crop. Harvest continued to lag behind last year and the 5-year average with defoliation on pace with a year ago. Eighty-two percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition with only 5 percent of bolls remaining to open.

SOYBEANS: Farmers took advantage of dry weather earlier in the week to harvest an additional 12 percent of their soybean crop. Harvest was on pace with a year ago, but still lags behind normal. Yields continued to be reported as above average.

TOBACCO: The recent showers received last week provided needed moisture for stripping burley tobacco. As of Sunday, over a third of the acreage had been stripped, running ahead of last year and the normal pace.

WHEAT: Almost half of the 2004 winter wheat crop had been seeded by week's end. Current progress outpaces last year and 5-year average. Recent rains have provided excellent soil moisture for germination.

PASTURES & HAY: Growers continued to cut a few late summer hay fields. Three-fourths of the State's pastures were in good-to-excellent condition last week as recent rains have proven beneficial.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: 10/19/03 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 10/19/03				Current Week	Rain	Current	From	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	10/19/03	Days	Since January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	78	41	61	+1	1.01	2	56.39	+15.37	2443	+7
Tri-City_RGNL_A	78	36	57	+1	0.60	1	55.22	+21.79	1674	+6
Brownsville_TN	76	42	60	-1	1.77	3	46.97	+6.02	2622	+470
Chattanooga/Lov	79	41	60	+0	0.09	3	55.48	+13.08	2412	+59
Clarksville_Sew	80	43	61	+3	0.37	2	43.88	+4.24	2290	+109
Cookeville	77	38	56	-2	0.46	4	55.14	+10.06	1828	+483
Covington	76	42	59	-2	1.28	2	45.36	+5.19	2292	-190
Crossville_AP	73	39	56	+2	0.67	2	56.13	+12.18	1656	+131
Dickson_AG	75	37	56	-4	0.00	0	47.52	+5.23	1670	-590
Dover_1W	74	44	58	+2	0.72	2	46.03	+4.73	2057	+118
Dyersburg	75	43	60	-2	1.14	3	39.99	+0.87	2429	-208
Erwin_1W	78	36	57	+4	0.33	1	44.32	+4.24	1590	-386
Huntingdon_Wate	74	41	59	+0	1.19	2	44.27	+2.31	2187	+133
Jackson_AG	76	40	60	+0	1.02	4	41.38	+0.43	2366	-15
Kingston_AG	76	38	57	+2	0.43	1	55.23	+9.04	1915	+133
Knoxville_AP	78	41	59	+2	0.31	1	49.99	+12.27	2165	+150
Lewisburg	77	38	58	+1	0.62	4	52.91	+9.64	1979	-44
Lexington_TN	79	41	59	-2	0.87	4	47.73	+7.82	2196	+760
Linden	77	38	59	+2	0.88	3	51.85	+8.58	1953	-91
Martin	76	39	57	-3	1.34	4	47.42	+5.89	2228	-39
Mc_Minnville_Tn	77	38	58	-2	0.58	2	50.14	+7.81	2121	-412
Memphis_AG	78	44	61	-3	1.00	3	47.99	+8.01	2542	-419
Milan	77	39	60	+2	1.14	2	44.32	+1.64	2227	+15
Murfreesboro_5N	77	39	59	+0	0.41	3	49.22	+6.86	2116	-419
Nashville_Metro	77	42	60	+0	0.59	3	53.10	+15.59	2335	-68
Newcomb	76	36	56	+3	1.06	2	56.32	+12.48	1685	+255
Oneida	76	38	56	+3	0.77	2	51.06	+7.22	1664	-490
Pikeville	78	36	58	-1	0.28	1	54.63	+12.46	2070	+106
Portland_TN	74	44	58	+1	0.56	2	50.98	+10.43	1970	-7
Pulaski_Water_P	77	36	57	-4	0.67	4	52.01	+8.63	2094	-285
Savannah_6SW	78	38	59	-3	0.80	3	58.03	+13.87	2103	-7
Sparta_TN	82	37	61	+4	0.71	4	58.10	+14.45	2124	+415
Springfield	75	42	58	+1	0.47	3	43.59	+4.59	1984	+6
Springhill	81	40	59	+2	0.58	4	56.60	+13.48	2207	+195
Union_City	75	39	56	-3	1.29	3	43.94	+3.39	2051	-136
Waynesboro_TN	76	37	57	+0	0.94	3	57.59	+12.58	1986	-287

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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